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J. Andrew Atkinson, Esq.
Executive Office of the Governor
Room 209
The Capitol
Tallahassee, Fl. 32399-0001

Via email only

J.andrew.atkinson@gmail.com

Re: Correspondence of Charles Grapski about City of Alachua and former City Manager Clovis Watson

Dear Mr. Atkinson:

I represent Charles Grapski in several matters and have received copies of the emails he has sent you and Mr. Wheeler. I write only to corroborate the authenticity of the core complaints he has expressed to you pertaining to the City of Alachua, former City Manager Clovis Watson, and Mr. Grapski's lack of success in obtaining local assistance.

I will not address all of the information and documents Mr. Grapski has provided you, but will summarily state my involvement.

In 2007 I brought a dual office action against Alachua and Watson on behalf of Mr. Grapski and another person. During the course of this litigation, I notified the Florida Retirement System and the Florida Department of Law Enforcement of facts that indicated that Alachua was falsely reporting to FDLE that Watson was a employed as a full time police officer, and that Alachua and Watson had never informed FRS that Watson's status had changed from police officer to city manager in 2002. As a result of their investigations, FRS re-designated Watson's status in the Florida Retirement System and FDLE ordered Watson to cease purporting to be a law enforcement officer as long as he remained city manager.

I filed the FRS and FDLE documents with the circuit court. Based upon them, the circuit court made the oral statement, "you filed suit and brought them to

their knees” (the transcript of this statement is available), decided that no further relief was needed or available, and dismissed the action as moot. We appealed, but the first district affirmed. Alachua and Watson seized upon the mootness dismissal as a “win” and presented it to their constituents as such, notwithstanding the fact that Watson had lost his desired special FRS status and FDLE had forbidden holding him out to be a law enforcement officer.

Watson commenced a circuit court action and an FRS (DMS) administrative proceeding in an attempt to regain the law enforcement FRS retirement status which he had wrongly claimed from the time he became city manager. The circuit court action was dismissed and the DMS proceeding culminated, after a hearing, in an order that ruled against Watson on every point. Although DMS has no authority to render a decision that Watson and Alachua were attempting to defraud the retirement system, its decision comes just short of drawing that conclusion.

I notified the local state attorney of these matters with a suggestion that he investigate whether the falsification of official reports to FDLE and omissions in reports to FRS constituted criminality. To my disappointment, the state attorney saw no evidence of criminal wrongdoing. This conclusion may have been influenced by the state attorney’s antipathy toward Mr. Grapski.

Mr. Grapski’s messages and documents pertain both to these matters and to a broader range of troublesome issues. These serious broader allegations appear to have support in the documents Mr. Grapski has provided, but I have not had occasion to depose witnesses about most of them.

I attach copies of my initial and follow up letters to FRS and FDLE without attachments, the DMS decision, and my letters to Mr. Cervone, the local state attorney. I would, of course, be available to discuss with you if you should wish to do so. The best number to reach me is 352-273-0660.

Yours sincerely,

Joseph W. Little

Attachments

cc: Robert Wheeler, Esq., rob.wheeler@myflorida.com

Charles Grapski